

Comments on Ripley's

A SYNOPSIS OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

BY

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(With a Supplement by Sidney Dillon Ripley II)

After Baker's FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, BIRDS (1922-1930), Ripley's A SYNOPSIS OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN (1961) is the most important and standard reference work on Indian ornithology. In view of its importance, it is proposed to publish, from time to time, notes and comments on the contents of the book. It may be mentioned at the outset that I have no serious criticism of the volume, and the following notes are more in order to supplement the information already contained therein. Since the question of recognition of one subspecies or the other is largely a matter of opinion of individual zoologists, it is not proposed to discuss that aspect, except in very obvious cases.

Drs. Sálím Ali, K. K. Tiwari, Charles Vaurie, S. Dillon Ripley, and Ernst Mayr read a draft of this paper and offered helpful advice. I must, however, specially mention that Dr. Ripley has been kind enough also to point out to me some omissions and commissions in his book that escaped my notice ; and that Dr. Mayr, in spite of his extremely busy hours, has greatly helped me in the interpretation of certain articles of the new code of zoological nomenclature. To all of them I express my grateful thanks. I am also thankful to Mr. F. C. Sawyer, Librarian, Zoological Library, British Museum (Natural History), London, for his invaluable help in finding out the correct dates of publication of certain books and periodicals.

1. Map between pp. viii and ix. Despite the caption 'India and Pakistan before the 1956 re-organization of Indian States', it shows India as it was before the reorganization of Provinces in 1937, for no boundaries between India and Pakistan or Bihar and Orissa are given.

Further, in place of 'N.W.F.D.' read 'N.W.F.P.'

2. p. 2, no. 4. As per no. 706 of the OFFICIAL LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY, *Podiceps nigricollis* Brehm is the correct name for this species.

3. p. 12, no. 33. The name should be *Ardea insignis* Hume. Hume's name is available, since its citation as a synonym of *Ardea nobilis* Blyth and *Ardea sumatrana* Raffles are based on misidentification.
4. p. 13, no. 38. The name should be *Butorides striatus chloriceps* (Bonaparte), as has been shown by Biswas (1959, p. 288).
5. p. 21, no. 64. The name should be *Ciconia ciconia boyciana* Swinhoe, for Severtzov's *asiatica* is scarcely valid and is best synonymized with the nominate *ciconia* (see Baker, 1929, p. 321).
6. p. 49, no. 156. It also occurs in Nepal in winter (Scully, 1879, p. 225 ; Rand & Fleming, 1957, p. 54).
7. p. 52, no. 165. There is no recorded evidence of its breeding in Nepal.
8. p. 52, no. 166. The correct name is *Aquila chrysaetos daphanea* Severtzov, 1888, for it is not preoccupied by *A. [quila]* ? *Daphanea* Hodgson, 1844, which is a *nomen nudum* and hence has no nomenclatural standing. Ticehurst (1932) renamed this bird as *A. c. hodgsoni* because he thought that since Severtzov's name was cited in the synonymy it was not available. This was, however, unnecessary in reference to Art. 16 (b) (ii) of the New Code.
9. p. 72, no. 236. The type locality, Srinagar, as given by Hellmayr, is in Dehra Dun district, U.P., and not in Kashmir.
Watson (1962) has recently shown that *Alectoris graeca* (Meisner) and *Alectoris chukar* (J. E. Gray) are distinct species.
10. p. 73, no. 238. Scully (1879, p. 348) reported it also from Nepal at c. 6000 ft.
11. p. 116, no. 383. The author of the name *Charadrius placidus* is J. E. Gray alone.

The first (1846) edition of the CATALOGUE of Hodgson's collection was published under the joint authorship of J. E. and G. R. Gray (see announcement at the back of the second edition), although G. R. Gray alone was responsible for all new names proposed therein (see pp. iv-v of the first edition). The second (1863) edition was, however, all J. E. Gray's own work.

12. p. 122, genus *Capella* Frenzel. As per no. 58 of the OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY, *Gallinago* Brisson is the correct generic name for the snipes.

13. p. 156, no. 501. Robinson & Kloss's name was originally printed as *Treron bisincta praetermissa*.
It occurs also in Nepal.
14. p. 162, no. 524. Blyth's name originally appeared as *C. (Alsomus) puniceus*.
It occurs also in south-eastern Bihar and southern West Bengal although rather scarce there.
15. p. 172, no. 562. Occurs below 2000 ft. also, for example, 800 ft. reported by Biswas (1961b, pp. 537-538).
16. p. 172, nos. 562 and 563. Husain (1959) has shown that *Psittacula himalayana* (Lesson) and *P. finschii* (Hume) are distinct species.
17. p. 173, no. 566. Hodgson obtained two specimens in Nepal (J. E. & G. R. Gray, 1846, p. 113).
18. p. 175, no. 572. Occurs also in Orissa (Mayurbhanj district, reported by Mukherjee, 1953, pp. 157, 160).
19. p. 205, no. 682. The subspecific name should be corrected to *monticola*.
20. p. 210, no. 700. The type locality of *Cypselus leuconyx* Blyth is Calcutta.
21. p. 217, no. 729. Occurs also in southern West Bengal.
22. p. 224, no. 755. In the reference mentioned, Stresemann refers only to the specimen(s) of *Coracias benghalensis* (L.) collected by P. Poivre, which did not form the basis of Linnaeus's description of the species.
Regarding designation of a neotype for *Coryus benghalensis* Linnaeus, see Biswas (1961a), and for the Ruling (Opinion 663) given on the case by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, see *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 20(3): 195-196, April 1963.
23. p. 233, no. 783. Recorded also from Dehra Dun district, U.P. (Mukherjee, 1956, pp. 162-163; Rand & Fleming, 1957, p. 88).
24. p. 233, no. 784. Bonaparte's name was originally spelt as *Megalaima hodgsoni*.
25. p. 235, no. 792. Latham's name *Bucco indicus* occurs on page 205 of INDEX ORNITHOLOGICUS, vol. 1 (1), and its type locality is India.
26. p. 236, no. 793/794. No specimen of *Indicator xanthonotus* has yet been taken in Nepal. It is not known, therefore, if

the subspecies *radcliffi* or the nominate *xanthonotus* or both occur there.

27. p. 245, no. 827. The original name was published as *Picus* (*Chrysonotus* Swainson) *Grantia*, and its author is Horsfield.
28. p. 261, no. 877. The year of publication of Blyth's name is 1845, although it was due in 1844.

Under Range : delete 'western' from Bihar.

29. p. 264, no. 888. It occurs in Nepal also (Sharpe, 1890, p. 585).
30. p. 271, no. 912. J. E. Gray's name *Hirundo chinensis* was published in 1830 in the ILLUSTRATIONS OF INDIAN ZOOLOGY, vol. 1, pt. 2, pl. 35, fig. 3.
31. p. 300, no. 1002. In the reference cited, Stresemann refers to *Sturnus Capensis* Linnaeus, 1766, and not to *Sturnus Contra* Linnaeus, 1758.
32. p. 305, no. 1020. The type locality of *Garrulus bispecularis* Vigors was earlier restricted to Murree by Baker (1922, p. 63).
33. p. 310, line 19. Delete 'Nepal' from the range of the species *Dendrocitta frontalis* Horsfield.
34. p. 340, no. 1133. The type locality of *Trichophorus striatus* Blyth is Darjeeling.
35. p. 341, no. 1140. The type locality of *Trichophorus flaveolus* Gould was originally given as Himalaya Mountains, Nepal, etc. Baker's restriction to Cachar (Assam) cannot stand, for Cachar is neither in the Himalayas, nor in Nepal. It has, however, been restricted to Nepal by Koelz (1954, p. 10).
36. p. 343, no. 1146. Horsfield's name originally appeared as *Hypsipetes McClellandii*.
37. p. 366, no. 1228. The type locality of Tickell's *Motacilla rubricapilla* is not Manbhum, but 'Borabhum' (=Barahabhum, Purulia district, West Bengal).
38. p. 367, no. 1231. The year of publication of Gmelin's name *Parus sinensis* is 1789.
39. p. 370, no. 1241. Hodgson's specimen on which Sharpe named *Suthora humii* came from Darjeeling (Gray, 1863, p. 37). The restriction of the type locality to eastern Nepal is, therefore, unnecessary.
40. p. 382, no. 1279. Vigors's name was originally published as *Garrulus striatus*.

41. p. 383, no. 1280. Whistler died in 1943, and *vibex* was described in 1950. Naturally, he could not possibly write in his MS. notes anything about its occurrence in eastern Kumaon. However, he thus referred to the British Museum series from Nepal : ' These are called intermediate by B.M. but seem to me, particularly Scully's birds, close to typical race.'
42. p. 417, no. 1397. Lowndes (1955, p. 31) found it as far up as 10,500 ft. in Nepal.
43. p. 417, no. 1399. Koelz's restriction of the type locality of *Hypsipetes gracilis* Horsfield to Naga Hills may not be valid, for there is nothing to show that McClelland (the collector) ever visited that part of the country.
44. p. 433, no. 1447. Moore's name originally appeared as *Nemura Hodgsoni*.
45. p. 439, no. 1465. It occurs in Nepal also (J. E. & G. R. Gray, 1846, p. 93 ; Biswas, 1963a, p. 807).
46. p. 443, nos. 1477 & 1478. *Sylvia montana* Horsfield, 1821, is older than *Horornis fortipes* Hodgson, 1845. The names of nos. 1477 and 1478 should, therefore, be changed to *Cettia montana pallidus* (Brooks) and *Cettia montana fortipes* (Hodgson), respectively.
47. p. 457, no. 1528. *Prinia catharia* Reichenow, 1908, is an older name for this bird.
48. p. 459, no. 1534. The type locality of *Graminicola bengalensis* Jerdon is Cachar. Although Jerdon (1863, p. 177) mentioned 'Ganges' first, he (loc. cit., note) clearly stated that he did not procure any specimen there, and that his first specimens were taken in Cachar. The type locality being the place of origin of the first specimen (type), only Cachar can qualify.
49. p. 471, no. 1570. Biddulph (1881, p. 67) obtained a specimen of *Sylvia alathaea* in Gilgit in May, and Scully (1881, p. 450) recorded it breeding there.
50. p. 478, no. 1592. The type locality of *Regulus inornatus* Blyth²⁵¹ is Darjeeling.
Proud (1955, p. 63) reported it also from Nepal.
51. p. 487, no. 1620. *Seicercus poliogenys* (Blyth) has also been known from Nepal (Gray, 1863, p. 32 ; Proud, 1955, p. 65).
52. p. 488, no. 1622. According to Art. 58 (8) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1961), *Abrornis albigularis* Blyth, 1861, is preoccupied by *Abrornis albogularis* Moore,

1854. The next name available, *Abrornis flaviventris* Jerdon, 1863, should, therefore, be used for this form.

It has also been known from Nepal (Gray, 1863, p. 33 ; Biswas, 1962b, p. 423).

53. pp. 496-497, no. 1647/1648. Summer birds from Manangbhot, northern central Nepal, taken between 13,000 and 15,000 ft. by Lowndes (1955, p. 32) have been identified as nominate *pectoralis*.
54. p. 503, no. 1671. The description of *Ruticilla phoenicuroides* Moore occurs in vol. 1 of Horsfield & Moore's work.
55. p. 506, no. 1678. Moore's name originally appeared as *Ruticilla Vigorsi*.
56. p. 507, no. 1680. It occurs much below 6000 ft., for example, Stevens's (1925, p. 358) report from Bhutan Duars (500 ft., O'Donel coll.) and from Nurbong (2000 ft.); Biswas's (1962a, p. 662) record from central Nepal at c. 1000 ft.
57. p. 514, no. 1700. The author's name Sykes should not be enclosed in parentheses.
58. p. 543, no. 1785. The subspecific name was originally published as *sushkini*.
59. p. 557, no. 1823. Also reported as far west as the Gandak-Kosi watershed, central Nepal (Proud, 1952, p. 362).
60. p. 571, no. 1865. The author of the name *Anthus pelopus* is G. R. Gray (see remark on no. 383).
61. p. 576, no. 1883. Hodgson's name was originally published as *Motacilla (Budytes) Calcarata*.
62. p. 583, no. 1906. The date of publication of Baker's name *Chalcoparia singalensis rubinigentis* in his FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, BIRDS vol. 7, as given, that is, 14 May 1930, does not seem to be correct. This date has presumably been obtained from the set of Baker's work in the Zoological Library of the British Museum. Inserted in the vol. 1 of that set is a handwritten memorandum from the publishers addressed to the late Sir Norman Kinnear, giving the actual dates of publication of the various volumes. In it the date for vol. 7 is written as 14 May 1930 which is obviously a slip of the pen (probably intended to be 14 March 1930), for the copy of vol. 7 of the same set is datestamped 23 April 1930 by the Library ! Again, the publishers have recently informed me that the date on the title pages of the volumes are the dates on which they

were published and were available for sale to the public, which, for vol. 7, is March 1930. Baker's name should, therefore, have priority over Kloss's, and the Indian Rubycheek should be known as *Anthreptes singalensis rubinigentis* (Baker).

63. p. 611, no. 1989. Reported also from Nepal (Lowndes, 1955, p. 34, from Manangbhot, northern central Nepal, at c. 10,000-13,000 ft., in summer).
64. p. 616, no. 2004. Recorded also from eastern Nepal (Biswas, 1963b, p. 194).
65. p. 634, no. 2055. Sharpe's name was published in 1888. It has also been known from Nepal (Gray, 1863, p. 57).
66. Various pages. Add Andaman Islands in the ranges of :
nos. 14 (p. 5), 17 (p. 7), 44 (p. 15), 49 (p. 16), 114 (p. 37), 133 (p. 43), 147 (p. 47), 175 (p. 55), 191 (p. 60), 193 (p. 60), 222/223 (p. 68), 337 (p. 101), 346 (p. 103), 371 (p. 112), 379 (p. 115), 409 (p. 124), 418 (p. 128), 424/425 (pp. 129-130).

Add Nicobar Islands in the ranges of :

nos. 18 (p. 7)—definite records ; 49 (p. 16)—probable records ; 52 (p. 17)—definite record ; 418 (p. 128)—doubtful record.

Add Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the ranges of :

nos. 21 (p. 8), 37 (p. 13), 48 (p. 16), 57 (p. 18), 373 (p. 113), 374 (p. 114), 385/386 (p. 117), 387/388 (p. 117), 393/394 (p. 119), 396 (p. 120), 406 (p. 123), 422 (p. 129), 434 (p. 133).

(See Ball, 1873 ; Hume, 1873, 1874, 1876 ; Butler, 1899-1900 ; Kloss, 1903 ; Osmaston, 1906).

67. Various pages. The author of the following names is Horsfield :
Hirundo brevirostris (p. 205, no. 683) ; *Coracias affinis* (p. 225, no. 757) ; *Phaenicornis elegans* (p. 325, no. 1080) ; *Hypsipetes gracilis* (p. 417, no. 1399).

The author of *Spizaetus rufitinctus* (p. 46, no. 144) and *Ianthocincla gularis* (p. 385, no. 1288) is McClelland.

The date of publication of all the abovementioned names and of *Mirafra Assamica* Horsfield (p. 260, no. 873), *Hirundo brevicaudata* Horsfield (p. 271, no. 912), *Dendrocitta frontalis* Horsfield (p. 310, no. 1035), *Muscicapa ? capitalis* Horsfield (p. 320, no. 1064), *Phaenicornis affinis* McClelland (p. 326, no. 1084), *Saxicola ? olivea* McClelland (p. 441, no. 1472), and *Cinnyris labecula* Horsfield (p. 590, no. 1928) is best given as 1839 (1840).

68. Various pages. The author of the following names is Moore (in Horsfield & Moore) :

Delichon nipalensis (p. 277, no. 932), *Pnoepyga longicaudatus* (p. 358, no. 1202), *Accentor rubeculoides* (p. 542, no. 1781).

69. Various pages. The authorship of J. E. Gray's ILLUSTRATIONS OF INDIAN ZOOLOGY (London, 1830-1835) has been given to Hardwicke as well as to Gray & Hardwicke. A perusal of the title page of the work leaves one without doubt that the author is J. E. Gray alone.

Kinnear (1925) and Sawyer (1953) have written on the dates of publication of the various plates.

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SUPPLEMENT

Additions and corrections to A SYNOPSIS OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, and a comment. By Sidney Dillon Ripley II.

p. 5. Add species 13a :

Bulweria fallax Jouanin

Small Black Petrel

Northern Indian Ocean.

13a. **Bulweria fallax** Jouanin

Bulweria fallax Jouanin, 1955, *L'Oiseau* 25 : 156. (Near Socotra, 12° 30' N., 55°E.)

Range.—Northern Indian Ocean (see Jouanin, 1957, *L'Oiseau* 27 : 12-27), wandering perhaps as far east as the western coast of India. The record of the Mascarene Black Petrel, *Bulweria aterrima*, should be treated as unresolved until fresh specimens come to hand to determine to which species birds near the coast might be assigned.

p. 14. no. 42. This should be read as :

Ardeola grayii grayii (Sykes)

and 'Maldiva' deleted from its Range.

p. 14. Add race 42a :

42a. **Ardeola grayii phillipsi** Scheer

Ardeola grayii phillipsi Scheer, 1960, *Senck. biol. Frankfurt am Main* 41 : 145. (Hitadu, Addu-Atoll, Maldives.)

Range.—Southern Maldiva Islands, Addu and Suadiva.

p. 122. Genus **Capella** Frenzel :

The International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (1957) have decreed that the snipe species at present included in the genus *Capella* should be transferred to '*Gallinago* Brisson 1760', and this is what Dr. Biswas is referring to in his comments on my treatment of these species in the SYNOPSIS. However, Dr. Alexander Wetmore, (1958, *Ibis* 100 : 125-127) has shown that the Commission has attempted to validate as a genus a term that does not have generic status. Thus current standard lists such as the American Ornithologists' Union CHECK LIST (1957) and the South African CHECK LIST (1952) as emended by the Seventh Report (1963, *Ostrich* 34 : 40) as well as my SYNOPSIS continue to recommend the use of the genus *Capella* pending further study.

p. 205. Add species 683a :

Collocalia maxima Hume

Low's Swiftlet

Bhutan, southeast Tibet, east to Thailand, Viet Nam, Malaya, Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

683a. **Collocalia maxima maxima** Hume

Collocalia maxima Hume, 1878, *Stray Feathers* 6 : 49. (Tenasserim.)

Range.—Eastern Bhutan and southeast Tibet (skins in B.M.) from 7000 to 12,750 feet, *vide* Medway, 1961, J.B.N.H.S. 59 : 149.

p. 206, no. 685. This should be listed as a species :

Collocalia unicolor (Jerdon)

Indian Edible-nest Swiftlet

Southern India and Ceylon.

685. **Collocalia unicolor** (Jerdon)

Hirundo unicolor Jerdon, 1840, *Madras Jour. Lit. Sci.* **11** : 238.
(Coonoor.)

Range.—as stated.

p. 206, the citation **Collocalia inexpectata** uine, Hand no. 686
following it should be read as :

Collocalia fuciphaga (Thunberg)

Greyrumpled or White-nest Swiftlet

Andaman and Nicobar islands east into the coastal Indochinese and
Malaysian subregions, Philippines and Lesser Sunda Islands.

686. **Collocalia fuciphaga inexpectata** Hume

Collocalia inexpectata Hume, 1873, *Stray Feathers* **1** : 296,
in text. (Andaman Islands.)

Range.—as stated.

p. 325. Add race 1080a :

1080a. **Pericrocotus flammeus andamanensis** Beavan

Pericrocotus andamanensis 'Tytler' = Beavan, 1867, *Ibis* :
322. (Andaman Islands.)

Range.—Andaman Islands.

p. 599, no. 1954. Additional note to range, **Montifringilla**
ruficollis :

Sight record, Bass (1963, pers. comm.), Jalapahar, Darjee-
ling c. 7500 ft., Oct. 12, 1956.